

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for using faceted metadata to facilitate
2 navigation through information resources, comprising:
3 receiving a query from a client at a server;
4 performing the query on the faceted metadata, wherein the faceted
5 metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the information resources,
6 and wherein performing the query generates results that identify information
7 resources that satisfy the query;
8 navigating to an information resource;
9 constructing a response containing the results from the information
10 resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine the query; and
11 sending the response to the client, thereby allowing the client to refine the
12 query;
13 whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to
14 refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to
15 maintain state information about the query on the server.
- 1 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the suggestions on
2 how to refine the query include suggested values for facets of the faceted
3 metadata.

1 3. (Currently amended) The method for claim 2, wherein the suggested
2 | values can include frequently occurring values for facets of the faceted metadata.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the suggestions can include
2 instructions on how to display the suggestions to a user.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving the response from the server at the client;
3 displaying the results and the suggestions on how to refine the query to a
4 user associated with the client;
5 upon receiving a command from the user to modify the query,
6 modifying the query in accordance with the command to
7 generate a new query, and
8 sending the new query from the client to the server.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein modifying the query in
2 accordance with the command can involve:
3 using one of the suggestions to define a new query term;
4 defining a new query term that is not associated with one of the
5 suggestions; and
6 removing a query term from the query.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein defining a new query term
2 that is not associated with one of the suggestions can involve defining a new text
3 search query term.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein displaying the results and the
2 suggestions further involves displaying a representation of the state of the query to
3 the user.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the query can contain:
2 a specification of facets to be used in organizing the results; and
3 conditions that results must satisfy.

1 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 automatically creating ~~the an initial~~ query by:
3 scanning through facets of the faceted metadata;
4 generating suggestions for facets that have commonly occurring values;
5 and
6 allowing a user to select one or more of the suggestions to create the ~~initial~~
7 query.

1 11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the suggestions
2 on how to refine the query can additionally specify frequencies for commonly
3 occurring values of facets in the faceted metadata.

1 12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to
2 receiving the query, the method further comprises initializing a database
3 containing the faceted metadata by:
4 receiving the faceted metadata in Resource Description Framework (RDF)
5 format; and
6 storing the faceted metadata in the database.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the query and the response
2 are encoded in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents that are
3 transferred between the client and the server.

1 14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the format of the
2 query and the response are specified by a query language that facilitates
3 navigation using the faceted metadata.

1 15. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a
3 method for using faceted metadata to facilitate navigation through information
4 resources, the method comprising:
5 receiving a query from a client at a server;
6 performing the query on the faceted metadata, wherein the faceted
7 metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the information resources,
8 and wherein performing the query generates results that identify information
9 resources that satisfy the query;
10 navigating to an information resource;
11 constructing a response containing the results from the information
12 resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine the query; and
13 sending the response to the client, thereby allowing the client to refine the
14 query;
15 whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to
16 refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to
17 maintain state information about the query on the server.

1 16. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 15, wherein the suggestions on how to refine the query include suggested values
3 for facets of the faceted metadata.

1 17. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium for claim
2 16, wherein the suggested values can include frequently occurring values for
3 facets of the faceted metadata.

1 18. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,
2 wherein the suggestions can include instructions on how to display the
3 suggestions to a user.

1 19. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,
2 wherein the method further comprises:
3 receiving the response from the server at the client;
4 displaying the results and the suggestions on how to refine the query to a
5 user associated with the client;
6 upon receiving a command from the user to modify the query,
7 modifying the query in accordance with the command to
8 generate a new query, and
9 sending the new query from the client to the server.

1 20. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19,
2 wherein modifying the query in accordance with the command can involve:
3 using one of the suggestions to define a new query term;
4 defining a new query term that is not associated with one of the
5 suggestions; and
6 removing a query term from the query.

1 21. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20,
2 wherein defining a new query term that is not associated with one of the
3 suggestions can involve defining a new text search query term.

1 22. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19,
2 wherein displaying the results and the suggestions further involves displaying a
3 representation of the state of the query to the user.

1 23. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,
2 wherein the query can contain:
3 a specification of facets to be used in organizing the results; and
4 conditions that results must satisfy.

1 24. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 | 15, wherein the method further comprises automatically creating ~~the an initial~~
3 query by:
4 | scanning through facets of the faceted metadata;
5 generating suggestions for facets that have commonly occurring values;
6 and
7 | allowing a user to select one or more of the suggestions to create the ~~initial~~
8 query.

1 25. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 15, wherein the suggestions on how to refine the query can additionally specify
3 | frequencies for commonly occurring values of facets in the faceted metadata.

1 26. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 15, wherein prior to receiving the query, the method further comprises initializing
3 a database containing the faceted metadata by:
4 receiving the faceted metadata in Resource Description Framework (RDF)
5 format; and
6 storing the faceted metadata in the database.

1 27. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,
2 wherein the query and the response are encoded in eXtensible Markup Language
3 (XML) documents that are transferred between the client and the server.

1 28. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 15, wherein the format of the query and the response are specified by a query
3 language that facilitates navigation using the faceted metadata.

1 29. (Currently amended) An apparatus for using faceted metadata to
2 facilitate navigation through information resources, comprising:
3 a receiving mechanism configured to receive a query from a client at a
4 server;
5 a database configured to perform the query on the faceted metadata,
6 wherein the faceted metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the
7 information resources, and wherein performing the query generates results that
8 identify information resources that satisfy the query;
9 a navigation mechanism configured to navigate to an information resource;
10 and
11 a response generation mechanism configured to,

12 | construct a response containing the results from the
13 | information resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine
14 | the query, and to
15 | send the response to the client, thereby allowing the client
16 | to refine the query;
17 | whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to
18 | refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to
19 | maintain state information about the query on the server.

1 30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the
2 | suggestions on how to refine the query include suggested values for facets of the
3 | faceted metadata.

1 31. (Currently amended) The apparatus for claim 30, wherein the
2 | suggested values can include frequently occurring values for facets of the faceted
3 | metadata.

1 32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the suggestions can
2 | include instructions on how to display the suggestions to a user.

1 33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a query
2 | generation mechanism on the client configured to:
3 | receive the response from the server;
4 | display the results and the suggestions on how to refine the query to a user;
5 | and
6 | upon receiving a command from the user to modify the query, to
7 | modify the query in accordance with the command to
8 | generate a new query, and to

1 39. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the
2 suggestions on how to refine the query can additionally specify frequencies for
3 | commonly occurring values of facets in the faceted metadata.

1 40. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a
2 database initialization mechanism that is configured to:
3 | receive the faceted metadata in Resource Description Framework (RDF)
4 | format; and to
5 | store the faceted metadata in a database.

1 41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the query and the
2 response are encoded in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents that are
3 transferred between the client and the server.

1 42. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the format of
2 the query and the response are specified by a query language that facilitates
3 | navigation using the faceted metadata.

1 43. (Currently amended) A means for using faceted metadata to facilitate
2 navigation through information resources, comprising:
3 a receiving means for receiving a query from a client at a server;
4 | a database means for performing the query on the faceted metadata,
5 | wherein the faceted metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the
6 information resources, and wherein performing the query generates results that
7 identify information resources that satisfy the query;
8 | a navigation means for navigating to an information resource;

9 a response generation means for generating a response containing the
10 | results from the information resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine
11 | the query; and
12 a sending means for sending the response to the client, thereby allowing
13 | the client to refine the query;
14 whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to
15 | refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to
16 | maintain state information about the query on the server.